

**Town Manager's Office
Town of Mansfield**

Memo

To: Town Council
From: Matt Hart, Town Manager
CC: Town Employees
Date: October 15, 2013
Re: Town Manager's Report

Below please find a report regarding various items of interest to the Town Council, staff and the community:

Council Business

- *Bottle Bill Endorsement* – A local ConnPIRG representative has asked the Town to join the campaign to update the Bottle Bill endorsement, to add all types of bottles that are available today. As explained in the attached materials, the General Assembly adopted the bottle bill in 1980 to encourage recycling and to reduce litter. The bill originally covered only beer and soda bottles. The General Assembly did update the bill in 2009 to include other types of bottles, such as juice, sports drinks and tea. If you are amenable to ConnPIRG's request or would like more information, I suggest you add the item to tonight's agenda or to a future agenda and refer the request to the Solid Waste Advisory Committee and the Sustainability Advisory Committee for their recommendation.
- *Main Street Investment Program Fund* - Per the Town Council's request, staff has updated the 9/9/13 agenda item summary regarding the Main Street Investment Program Fund that is posted [online](#) to reflect that the Town will be providing in-kind services of approximately \$13,000 for tree planting.
- *Special Council Meeting* – I have scheduled a special meeting of the Town Council for 7:00PM on Wednesday, October 23, 2013 to discuss the non-binding letter of intent with the Connecticut Water Company and potentially some additional items. We will meet in the Council Chamber.

Major Projects and Initiatives

- *Storrs Center*
 - *Construction Update* – Construction of the individual commercial spaces within One Royce Circle continues with expected openings of the remaining tenants as follows:
 - UConn Co-op Bookstore at Storrs Center – Fall 2013
 - Ballard Institute & Museum of Puppetry – Fall 2013
 - UConn Urgent Care – Winter 2013/14
 - UConn Health Center – Winter 2013/14
 - Haru Aki Café – Fall 2013
 - ThinkitDrinkit – Fall 2013
 - UConn Dental – Winter 2013/14
 - Storrs Wine & Spirits – Fall 2013
 - GBS Threading & SPA – Winter 2014

On Friday, October 11, Price Chopper celebrated a ceremonial ground breaking at their future location on the southern end of Storrs Center. Foundations are underway, and the store is expected to open in mid-2014. The next building in the Town Square area (currently referred to as TS-3) is under construction with an anticipated completion in August 2014. As with the other buildings in the Town Square neighborhood, this building will feature commercial space on the first floor and rental apartments by The Oaks on the Square on the upper floors. The Oaks began accepting applications for these apartments on Monday, October 14.

- *Zoning Permit application for Educational Playcare* - The Mansfield Downtown Partnership will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, October 17, 2013 at 7:00PM in the Council Chamber to hear comments on a Zoning Permit application by Educational Playcare for a day care center in Building VS-11, which will be located on the east side of Wilbur Cross Way, north of Charles Smith Way. Questions may be directed to the Mansfield Downtown Partnership (storrscenterinfo@mansfieldct.org or 860.429.2740). The Partnership continues to maintain a construction website for updates at <http://storrscenterconstruction.blogspot.com>.
- *Celebrate Mansfield Weekend* - The 2013 *Celebrate Mansfield Weekend* was a success and featured a wide variety of activities sponsored by different organizations spanning the weekend of Friday, September 20 through Sunday, September 22. The Mansfield Downtown Partnership organized the weekend of fun in downtown Storrs, beginning with the Grand Opening of Storrs Center on Friday followed by an afternoon of "Music in the Street." The Oaks on the Square, Mansfield Community Center, and StoDo Arts also hosted events that day. Saturday featured events by Joshua's Trust, Mansfield Parks and Recreation Department, Mansfield Community Center, Storrs Farmers Market, and the Ballard Institute and Museum of Puppetry. The fun culminated with the Celebrate Mansfield Parade and Tenth Annual *Festival on the Green* on Sunday. More than 700 participants marched in the largest parade to date, which featured animals, floats, the E. O. Smith High School Band, and the UConn Marching Band. The 2013 Grand Marshals were the Stearns Family of Mountain Dairy. The *Festival on the Green* was the largest of the ten years with over 90 booths. Thousands of Mansfield residents and visitors enjoyed many different hands-on activities presented by Mansfield-located businesses and community organizations. Mansfield restaurants were on hand with a variety of food choices from falafels to pizza, samosas to burritos. Black Prairie, a Portland, OR-based folk/Americana group, was a hit; these talented musicians were coaxed into two encores by an enthusiastic crowd!
- *A Green Festival* - The [Mansfield Downtown Partnership](#) is pleased to report the success of the low-waste efforts at the Tenth Annual [Festival on the Green](#) on Sunday, September 22. Led by Town of Mansfield Recycling Coordinator Ginny Walton, *Festival* volunteers and participants diverted 87% of the waste generated during the event into composting and recycling. Despite the largest *Festival* to date, only 150 pounds of waste were generated throughout the day. Volunteers from the Town's Solid Waste Advisory Committee, UConn Eco House, UConn Honors Alternative Spring Break, and Storrs-Mansfield Transition staffed waste stations around the *Festival* grounds and assisted visitors with properly sorting their waste into composting, recycling, or trash. Of the 150 pounds of waste collected, 87.5 pounds were compostable materials and 43 pounds were recyclable materials. Just 20 pounds of trash were collected! This year's *Festival on the Green* featured 90 booths and over 700 people in the Celebrate Mansfield Parade with an estimated over 3,000 residents and visitors in attendance. The success of the low-waste efforts can be attributed to the cooperation of the many Mansfield businesses and community groups to thoughtfully plan low-waste activities for attendees of all ages to enjoy. In addition, the food booths all served their menu items on compostable plates, bowls, and cups thanks to the generous support of [Willimantic Waste Paper Co, Inc](#), a Grassroots sponsor of the *Festival*. The Mansfield Downtown Partnership thanks Ms. Walton and the *Festival on the Green* volunteers, participants, and attendees for their help to "[Keep It Green!](#)"

Upcoming Events

- *Mansfield's Candidates Night* – The League of Women Voters of Northeastern Connecticut will host a candidate's night on Tuesday, October 22, 2013 from 7:00-9:00PM in the Council Chamber at the Beck Municipal Building. Attendees can discuss town issues with the candidates running for Town Council, the Mansfield Board of Education, the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Region 19 Board of Education.

Upcoming Meetings*

- Human Services Advisory Committee, October 16, 2013, 2:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Ethics Board, October 17, 2013, 4:30 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Solid Waste Advisory Committee, October 17, 2013, 5:00 PM, Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Downtown Partnership Special Board Meeting, October 17, 2013, 7:00 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Planning and Zoning Commission, October 21, 2013, 7:00 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Advisory Committee on the Needs of Persons with Disabilities, October 22, 2013, 2:30 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- **Special Town Council Meeting**, October 23, 2013, 7:00 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Economic Development Commission, October 24, 2013, 5:30 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Town Council, October 28, 2013, 7:30 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building

**Meeting dates/times are subject to change. Please view the [Town Calendar](#) or contact the Town Clerk's Office at 860-429-3302 for a complete and up-to-date listing of committee meetings.*